IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended):   A radio access network system for transferring user data in a radio access network, comprising a base station configured to communicate the user data with a mobile station via a radio channel, and a control apparatus configured to control the base station, wherein:

the mobile station is configured to transmit a transfer path setting request, for requesting to set a transfer path of the user data, to a core network via the radio access network; ~~and~~

the control apparatus comprises:

a receiving unit configured to receive a transfer path assignment request for requesting to assign the transfer path of the user data, from the core network,

a transfer path setting unit configured to set the transfer path of the user data, in accordance with the transfer path assignment request,

a priority setting unit configured to set a priority <u>for the transfer path such that packet data transmitted from the base station along the transfer path to the control apparatus is processed according to the priority set for the transfer path by the transfer path setting unit,</u>~~with which the user data is transferred over the transfer path of the user data set by the transfer path setting unit,~~ and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit, to the base station, a radio channel setting request for requesting to set the radio channel, the radio channel setting request including the priority.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The radio access network system according to Claim 11, wherein:

the transfer path setting request includes a traffic class showing a type of the user data;

the transfer path assignment request includes the traffic class; and

the priority setting unit is configured to set the priority in accordance with the traffic class.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The radio access network system according to Claim 12, wherein the priority setting unit is configured to set the priority, so that when the traffic class requires real-time communication a priority is set higher than a priority set when the traffic class does not require real-time communication.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The radio access network system according to Claim 12, wherein:

the control apparatus comprises a priority determination table for associating the traffic class with the priority; and

the priority setting unit is configured to set the priority by referring the priority determination table.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The radio access network system according to Claim 11, wherein:

the base station comprises a packet processing unit configured to regenerate a data packet, based on the user data received from the mobile station; and

the packet processing unit is configured to add the priority to a predetermined field in the data packet.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The radio access network system according to Claim 15, wherein the predetermined field comprises:

a field for defining a priority of the data packet by a common format used in a plurality of networks, or

a field for defining a priority of the data packet by a format used in a predetermined network only.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The radio access network system according to Claim 15, wherein the predetermined field is a field for defining any of delay characteristics of the data packet, throughput of the data packet, reliability of the data packet or cost of the data packet.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The radio access network system according to Claim 15, wherein:

the base station comprises a transfer table for associating the priority included in the radio channel setting request with the radio channel; and

the base station is configured to specify the priority by referring to the transfer table, and to transmit the data packet which is regenerated by the packet processing unit, to the control apparatus in accordance with the priority.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The radio access network system according to Claim 15, wherein:

the control apparatus comprises a transfer table for associating the transfer path of the user data which is set by the transfer path setting unit with the priority which is set by the priority setting unit; and

the control apparatus is configured to specify the priority by referring the transfer table, and to transmit the data packet which is received from the base station, to the core network in accordance with the priority.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A radio access method for transferring user data in a radio access network comprising a base station configured to communicate the user data with a mobile station via a radio channel, and a control apparatus configured to control the base station, the method comprising:

[[(1)]] transmitting, at the mobile station, a transfer path setting request for requesting to set a transfer path of the user data, to a core network via the radio access network;

[[(2)]] receiving, at the control apparatus, a transfer path assignment request for requesting to assign the transfer path of the user data, from the core network;

[[(3)]] setting, at the control apparatus, the transfer path of the user data, in accordance with the transfer path assignment request;

[[(4)]] setting, at the control apparatus, a priority ~~with which the user data is transferred over the transfer path of the user data set in the step (3)~~ for the transfer path such that packet data transmitted from the base station along the transfer path to the control apparatus is processed according to the priority; and

[[(5)]] transmitting, at the control apparatus, to the base station, a radio channel setting request for requesting to set the radio channel, the radio channel setting request including the priority.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A radio access method for transferring user data, in a radio access network wherein a mobile station communicates user data via a radio channel, the method comprising:

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[[(1)]] transmitting a transfer path setting request for requesting to set a transfer path of the user data, to a core network via the radio access network;

[[(2)]] receiving a transfer path assignment request for requesting to assign the transfer path of the user data, from the core network;

[[(3)]] setting the transfer path of the user data, in accordance with the transfer path assignment request; and

[[(4)]] setting a priority ~~with which the user data is transferred over the transfer path of the user data set in the step (3)~~ for the transfer path such that packet data transmitted from the base station along the transfer path to the control apparatus is processed according to the priority, wherein:

the transfer path setting request includes a traffic class showing a type of the user data,

the transfer path assignment request includes the traffic class, and

~~in the step (4)~~ the priority is set in accordance with the traffic class.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A control apparatus for controlling a base station in a radio access network comprising the base station configured to communicate the user data with a mobile station via a radio channel, comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive a transfer path assignment request for requesting to assign a transfer path of the user data, from the core network;

a transfer path setting unit configured to set the transfer path of the user data, in accordance with the transfer path assignment request;

a priority setting unit configured to set a priority ~~with which the user data is transferred over the transfer path of the user data set by the transfer path setting unit~~ for the transfer path such that packet data transmitted from the base station along the transfer path to the control

apparatus is processed according to the priority set for the transfer path by the transfer path setting unit; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit, to the base station, a radio channel setting request for requesting to set the radio channel, the radio channel setting request including the priority.